(viii) Need for early commissioning of sugar mills issued licences particularly in Meerut, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir only 33 per cent of the total sugarcane produced in our country in being crushed by sugar mills due to which the farmers are suffering on two counts viz.; their per hectare productivity is not increasing and secondly, they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Every sugar mill in the country has a capacity to generate 25 M.W. electricity per day.

The setting up of new Sugar Mills through the betters of intents or licence issued by the Government of India is getting delayed due to non-disbursement of loans for this purpose. In my Meerut Constituency, only 25 percent of the total production of sugarcane is crushed by the sugar mills. Difficulties are being faced to obtain loans for the setting up of new sugar mills namely Seal Sugar Limited in Mau Khas in my constituency i.e. Meerut (U.P.) This is adversely affecting production of sugarcane, the economic condition of the farmers as well as the power generation.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to intervene personally in the matter his order to ensure disbursement of loans for the setting up of new sugar mills.

(ix) Need to connect Kodagu district in Karnataka by Rail

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Railway link between different parts of the country would ensure overall economic development and it is the lifeline of a nation, Kodagu district in Karnataka State is the only district in the State not having a railway link. Survey was conducted to establish a railway link to this part some twenty years ago. But the project has not come through. Recently, a new survey is ordered for establishing a link between Chennarayapatna and Kushalnagar on the one hand and Chennarayapatna and Madikeri on the other.

A practical and useful railway link will have to be established between Mangalore and Mysore through Madikari and Kushalnagar. The new railway line may be drawn to Madikeri from Subramanya Road junction of the existing Mangalore-Hassan Railway line and the new line may connect Madikeri with Mysore through Kushalnagar. This new line would help transit of coffee and spices produced in large quantities in Kodagu and which is being exported. earning huge foreign exchange for the country. I urge upon the Railway Minister to positively take up this project immediately.

(x) Need to look into the alleged irregularities in disbursement of loan to the farmers by Bihar State Land and Development Bank

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir Gross irregularities have been committed in the disbursement of loans to farmers for agricultural purposes under the refinancing scheme during 1995 - 96 and 1996-97 out of the funds provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Bihar State Land Development Bank. Signatures of the Loanee farmers have been taken in token of having received the loan amounts but loans have not been actually disbursed to them for months together. Due to non-disbursement of loans in time, not only the agriculture has suffered, which is a national loss, but the farmers would also have to pay more interest unnecessarily.

I, would therefore, urge the Government to conduct an enquiry into the circumstances under which the NABARD forwarded funds to Bihar State Land Development Bank for advancement of loans the amount of loans so disbursed and whether distribution thereof was made timely and properly or not?

(xi) Need to declare Chandigarh-Bhatinda, Chandigarh Ludhiana Roads as National Highways

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : It is a well-known fact that Punjab is a border State and it also supplies foodgrains to the whole country. It means the roads to the State bear heavy burden. Roads from Chandigarh to Bhatinda which goes to Pakistan border through Ganganagar and Chandigarh to Ambala which touches National Highway No.1 at Ambala, bear much burden. Similarly, road from Chandigarh to Ludhiana which goes to Pakistan border through Amritsar and touches National highway No. 1 at Ludhiana. Such roads may be declared National Highways and also may be included in four lane scheme. Hon. Prime Minister during his recent visit to Punjab has also agreed to the above proposal

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

15.30 hrs.

STEPS FOR ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION — Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As it is 3.30 P.M. now, we will take up Private Members' Business. The House will continue the discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Sriram Chauhan on the 1st August, 1997.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, my sister would like to say something. Kindly allow them to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is the time for Private Members' Business. I can do nothing.